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THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE

NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS



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VOL. V, No. 8

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COVER COIN: GREEK IMPERIAL COIN
OF EPHEOS (IONIA) REPRESENTING A
STATUE OF THE FAMOUS PHILOSOPHER
HERACLITUS. (DRAWING)

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From the Editor's Desk



There is in America a strong undercurrent of anti-intellectualism. Purely intellectual exercises are not wholly respectable; disciplines which can not be immediately related to the earning of money are thought to be time wasting and people who read are called bookworms. College professors, who ought to be able to debate on subjects in their fields with a modicum of competence, are often called "fuzzy-headed."

This country demands education for all and insists that our children shall attend school. The curriculum is adjusted to that same practical end of preparing the individual to take his place in society and not to the development of the minds and hearts of our children. We want our children to receive an education, but we do not wish them to become educated.

This country proudly holds that it has all but eradicated illiteracy — less than 2% of our population is incapable of reading. Figures compiled by a national poll of good repute indicate that among college graduates, the average number of books read per person per year is less than two. Perhaps we have really accomplished something by becoming the greatest nation of literate illiterates ever seen on earth.

Scholarly books published in the United States reach ultimately less than .005% of the population.

Perhaps the ultimate commentary on twentieth century respect for the achievements of the heart, mind and hands of men is the use of Rodin's splendid masterpiece as an advertisement for a hemorrhoid remedy. Symbolically, anti-intellectualism thus spreads excrement on the achievements of man and reduces everything to its lowest common denominator, slime.

There are among those who work with coins a group of these same anti-intellectuals. They oppose knowledge, refuse to read and offer ignorant opinions in verbose dissertations. They even can attach the practical aspect, their coins are an investment and this is the justification for owning them. These people would never consent to study coins.

What else can numismatics be but an intellectual exercise? There is no money to be earned by the acquisition of knowledge—there is no practical application to a coin collection. The coin like the mountain, challenges man simply because it is there.

The intellectual is not necessarily a brilliant man, but he is

a thinking man. He drinks as deeply of knowledge as his capabilities permit. He does not acknowledge that everything has to have a practical application, but rather that study in any field is an end unto itself. He is introspective, sensitive to himself and the world in which he finds himself and he seeks to better understand both himself and that world. Curiosity is his greatest motivation and the satisfaction of his need know is his greatest reward.

He knows, that if J. Paul Getty represents the acme in the accumulation of wealth, that the world will take little note of him or his passing. He knows that the future direction of the twentieth century is more determined by such as the strange little man who didn't comb his hair, wore sweatshirts and was unfit to live in Germany, but who altered the direction of theoretical physics.

There is no reason why any of us should be forced to accept anti-intellectualism, and in this same America, with its insistence upon unrestricted access to information, it is left to the individual to choose which group he will support. There are books available to any of us who wish to participate in a study of the world.

Books are the final answer to anti-intellectualism's subtle onslaught. No man who wishes to know can be denied; no idea, once set forth can ever be suppressed.

There are stars in the sky toward which man has always looked. As he takes his first stumbling steps into that vast ocean, with no more practical application than attached to the proposed voyage of Christopher Columbus he knows that only in books and in thought will he be free of this planet.

To lay claim to the future, man must ever be a seeker after knowledge, forever curious, and must find his deepest pleasure in the intellectual achievements of his fellows. To join this select if somewhat ostracized group, all that is required is to ask a question and to start reading books.

Books are not just the salvation of numismatics, they are the salvation of the individual man and beyond that, they contain the salvation of the world.

JOHN E. HARTMANN, EDITOR

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ROMAN MINT MARKS: THE 4th CENTURY

ARTHUR E. MCCrackEN

The mint marks herein listed are of the later empire, dating from the reign of Constantine and later. While many of these mint marks are identical with those in use during the late third century, users of this table are warned *not* to attribute late third century coins on the basis of this table which is valid only for the Constantinian and post-Constantinian periods.

None of the information presented here is new. Most of the marks in the table were carefully gleaned from LATE ROMAN BRONZE COINAGE by Carson, Hill and Kent. What is new is the complete listing, alphabetically. It is intended that any 4th century bronze coin can be looked up in this table on the basis of the first letter of the mint mark. It is hoped that this will be a useful reference to all collectors and of particular value to beginners who find some of the various prefixes and abbreviations used by the Romans quite confusing.

The author, in compiling this table, has aimed at completeness, yet admits that the undertaking of such a task inevitably must bring about omissions. For these he apologizes and suggests that such omissions be pointed out to the editor of this magazine so that a future addition table of omitted marks may be printed.

MINT MARK	CITY	MINT MARK	CITY
AL	Alexandria	C	Colchester
ALE	"	C	Constantinople
ALEA	"	CL	Colchester
ALEX	"	COM	Thessalonika
AM	Amiens	COMOB	"
AMB	"	CON	Arles (after 525)
AN	Antioch (ad Orontem)	CON	Constantinople
ANA	"	CONA	"
ANT	"	CONOB	"
ANTA	"	CONP	Arelate
ANTOB(1)	"	CONS	Constantinople
AQ	Aquileia	CONSA	"
AQOB	"	CONSP	"
AQP	"	CONSPA	"
AQPS	"	CONST	Arelate
AQVI	"	CPLG	Lugdunum
AQVIL	"	CVZ	Cyzicus
AQVILP	"	CVZA	"
AR	Arelate (Arles)	CVZIC	"
ARL	"	CVZICA	"
ARLA	"	CVZICENA	"
ARLP	"	CYZ	"
ASIRM	Sirmium	CYZIC	"
ASIS	Siscia		
ASISC	"	DASIC	Siscia
ASISCA	"	DM	Mediolanum (Milan)
ASISCE	"		
ASISCP	"	FPAR	Arelate
ASISCR	"	FPLG	Lugdunum (Lyons)
ASISD	"		
ASISL	"	H	Heraclea
ASISR	"	HER	"
ASISV	"	HERAC	"

MINT MARK	CITY	MINT MARK	CITY
HERACA	Heraclea	PLVGD	Lugdunum
HERACL	"	PRM	Rome
HERACLA	"	PTR	Trevari (Trier)
HT	"	PTRE	"
HTR	"	R	Rome
K	Cyzicus	RAV	Ravenna
K	Carthage	RBP	Rome
KAR	"	RFP	"
KART	"	RM	"
KON	Constantinople	RMP	"
KONS	Arelate	RO	"
KONST	"	ROM	"
KONSTAN	"	ROMA	"
KV	Cyzicus	ROMAP	"
KVZ	"	ROMOB	"
KY	"	RP	"
L	Londinium	RPLG	Lugdunum
LD	Lugdunum	RPM	Rome
LG	"	RV	Ravenna
LL	Londinium	RVPS	"
LN	"	RPRIMA	Rome
LON	"	S	Siscia
LPAR	Arelate	SD	Serdica (Sophia)
LPLG	Lugdunum	SER	"
LVG	"	SERD	"
LVGA	"	SIR	Sirmium
LVGAP	"	SIRM	"
LVGD	"	SIROB	"
LVGP	"	SIS	Siscia
LVGPA	"	SISC	"
LVGPB	"	SISCPS	"
LVGPC	"	SM	Sirmium
LVGPD	"	SM	Siscia
LVGPR	"	SMAL	Alexandria
LVGPS	"	SMALA	"
LVGSP	"	SMAN	Antioch
LVGV	"	SMANTA	"
LVGVP	"	SMAQ	Aquila
MD	Mediolanum	SMSQP	"
MDOB	"	SMH	Heraclea
MDPS	"	SMHA	"
MED	"	SMK	Cyzicus
ML	Londinium	SMKA	"
MLL	"	SMN	Nicomedia
MLN	"	SMNA	"
MN	Nicomedia	SMR	Rome
MNA	"	SMROM	"
MOST	Ostia	SMRP	"
MOSTP	"	SMTR	Trevari
MPLG	Lugdunum	SMTRP	"
MSL	Londinium	SMTES	Thessalonika
MTH	Rome	SMTESA	"
N	Nicomedia	SMTS	"
NA	"	SMTSAS	"
NAR	Narbonne	SMVRM	Rome
NIC	Nicomedia	T	Ticinium (Pavia)
NICO	"	TE	Thessalonika
NIK	"	TES	"
NIKA	"	TESA	"
OES	Thessalonika*	TESOB	"
OST	Ostia	TH	"
P	Rome	THES	"
PAR	Arelate	THS	"
PARL	"	THSOB	"
PCON	"	TR	Trevari
PCONST	"	TRB	"
PK	Carthage	TRE	"
PLG	Lugdunum	TROB	"
PLN	Londinium	TRP	"
PLON	"	TRPS	"
PLVG	Lugdunum	TS	Thessalonika
		TSA	"
		TSAVI	"
		URB ROM	Rome

*O probably from Greek Theta

THE HISTORICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A BYZANTINE COIN HOARD FROM DOBRUJA

By JOEL L. MALTER

The most frequent use the historian has made of coin hoards is to use the hoard as a chronological clue to the archaeological aspects of the site being studied. Where written records were lacking and contemporary coins available, the coins have certainly been a beneficial aid to the archaeologist and historian. A second, broader use of coin hoards—as indicators of the commerce of antiquity—has not been as fully exploited.¹ It is the purpose of this paper to trace the utilization of coin hoards by researchers with particular emphasis on the more recent utilization of hoards for the commercial or monetary history clues they provide. In so doing particular attention will be given to a Byzantine coin hoard found near the town of Kalipetrovo on the Lower Danube in the region known as the Dobruja.

A basic use of coin hoards by scholars traditionally has been to attempt to describe the specific hoard in the light of the minutiae of the coins themselves, in an attempt to help in the classification of the series of coins represented in the hoard itself. This, of course, has great importance for the numismatic aspects of the coins.² But attempts by scholars to draw information from a great many associated hoards in the writing of the standard works on numismatics is strangely lacking, and the standard works on ancient history often overlook the information to be derived from coin hoards.³

One might think that as coins are found in hoards, they, the coins are immediately dispersed with the result that the scholar rarely gets the opportunity to study them. Although it is true that many of the known coin finds are shrouded in various stages of obscurity, a great deal has been published on hoards. The American Numismatic Society has published dozens of important hoard finds in the series *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*.⁴ Other learned societies such as the Royal Numismatic Society publish articles on hoards in their official publications. In addition many European countries have series on the archaeological background of their nation's history and many an article on coin hoards is published in such journals.⁵

As a result of the publication of literally hundreds of monographs on coin hoards, there is really a tremendous reservoir of numismatic information pertinent to historical ramifications for the historian to collate and utilize. This avenue of research was pointed out by Sydney P. Noe in the first mono-

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graph of the American Numismatic Society's series of *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, which he devoted entirely to the subject "Coin Hoards," and their importance. Noe's clairvoyance about a potential use of coin hoards was suggested by his statement, "Commercial lessons which we may draw from hoards promise to be of very great value, but with comparatively few expectations, they have not yet been realized."⁶

After the publication of Noe's monograph in 1920, a rash of articles on coin hoards deluged the various journals of numismatics. Perhaps the most prolific authority in this area was Edward T. Newell who wrote primarily for the American Numismatic Society's series. A most useful consolidation of information on the known coin hoards pertinent to Greek coins was published by the American Numismatic Society in 1925.

In his "A Bibliography of Greek Coin Hoards," Noe listed hundreds of hoards with the known bibliographical data of each.⁷ This work was followed by one of great use in the preparation of this report. Sawyer Mc A. Mosser's "A Bibliography of Byzantine Coin Hoards," contains over 350 different hoard entries pertinent to Byzantine numismatics.⁸ By comparing the data of one hoard with another, certain trends can be established. For example, Mc A. Mosser's bibliography lists hoards of Byzantine coins that were found at such diverse locations as Carthage, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Finland, Norway, Rumania, Sweden and Yugoslavia.⁹ Such a wide geographical range of Byzantine coin circulation is certainly important in developing a historical approach to the Byzantine commercial empire.

Other features of importance in comparing the Byzantine coin hoards in Mc A. Mosser are the generally close time spans represented in most of the coin hoards. Generally the coins of only a few successive emperors are represented in any given hoard. There are exceptions to this, especially as will be seen in the discussion of the extraordinary coin find to be discussed later. Another feature of importance demonstrated in the Mc A. Mosser *Bibliography* is the great number of Byzantine coin hoards found in association with objects of jewelry. Some of the outstanding examples of such obvious "savings hoards" listed by Mc A. Mosser were the Broa, Sweden hoard,¹⁰ the Gurghendjik, Bulgarian hoard,¹¹ and the Silistra, Rumanian hoard which is most nearly like the hoard to be discussed in this report.¹² In all, Mc A. Mosser listed over twenty five Byzantine hoards which included jewelry or silver or gold bars. This characteristic is not nearly as preva-

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lent amongst Greek and Roman coin hoards where only occasionally does jewelry occur.¹³

Thus the information coin hoards can offer the researcher varies, but in most cases the hoards can help to verify other data. This was the approach D. M. Metcalf used in his book, *Coinage in the Balkans, 820-1355*, which describes the monetary history of the entire Balkan region during the period indicated in the title. Wherever hoard evidence was available, Metcalf was able to develop an analysis of the commercial activities of the area or areas associated with the particular hoard. Metcalf discussed the various Balkan area geographical groupings by classifying certain regions as coinage provinces. Each coinage-province and the circulation areas within the coinage-province provided Metcalf with the data to study. "... the framework of monetary affairs,"¹⁴ of the region. The more hoard information available, the more complete were the conclusions drawn by Metcalf. For example, his discussion of the two enormous site finds of Corinth and Athens sheds great light on the monetary history of these cities in the ninth and tenth centuries.¹⁵

It is not the purpose of this report to present a critique or review of Metcalf's book, but rather to elucidate one particular circulation area, that of the Dobruja, an interesting circulation area somewhat over-looked by Metcalf and an area that provided the site for the particular coin hoard to be covered in this paper. Metcalf did set the stage for an investigation of this area when he listed the concept of, "... five links in the economic chain of Balkan trade."¹⁶ These were:

1.) The industrial market of the powerful state, 2.) The sea route, 3.) The coastal town at the point of entry, 4.) The land route, 5.) The hinterland.¹⁷ Metcalf listed several examples of this economic trade, and alluded to the Dobruja area when he suggested that, "In Bulgaria . . . economic chains may have stretched by way of the Black Sea ports to Preslav and its region, and through the Dobruja to the cities of the lower Danube."¹⁸ It is the purpose of this report to develop further this assumption of Metcalf in the light of this new hoard to be discussed after a brief geographical and historical resume of the area.

The Dobruja is the region north of Thrace on the eastern-most parts of Bulgaria and Rumania which lay between the Black Sea Coast and the lower Danube River.¹⁹ The Dobruja area, from the Danube Delta in the north down the coast to the city of Varna and then due west along the Balkan plateau to the Danube again, is a natural geographical unit which developed, historically, under a rich diffusion of many ancient cultures.

The great heritage of classical times is quite evident in the Dobruja from the vast numbers of ruins from Greek, Roman and Byzantine times.²⁰ The ancient Greeks had a number of colonies in the region. The towns of Istria and Tomis were important trading centers on the Black Sea and both towns struck coins of their own. As migrations of people such as the Getes and Scythians entered the area they struck coins imitative of those they found in circulation. The most extensive coinage of the earlier Greeks were the famous gold staters of Philip II of Macedon, 356-336 B. C., and the large issue of tetradrachms of the Dionysius type from the island of Thasos. Both of these coin series were imitated by the Getes and Scythians.²² With the occupation of Dacia by the Romans and the introduction of the orderly machines of Roman administration into the Dobruja, a long period of commercial expansion took place.

The routes the Romans took into the region were documented by the hoard evidence used by Seton-Watson who wrote, "[that] Roman citizens and traders, [found] their way across the Julian Alps and down the Save and Danube Valleys, . . . through the Balkan peninsula, . . . is suggested by the fact that numerous coins of Apollonia and Dyrrachium have been discovered in Moldavia."²³ Once they established themselves in the Dobruja the Romans built a series of fortifications, customs houses and trading centers that dotted both banks of the Danube from Transmarisca in the west down river to the delta, and across the narrowest part of the Dobruja from Axiopolis to the coast at Tomis.²⁴

One of the key cities in the Dobruja was Durostorum on the Danube. It was the home base of Roman Legion XI Claudia.²⁵ And more important from the point of interest of this report, Durostorum was also a customs and trade center.²⁶ Coin finds from the Durostorum area are amongst the most curious of all. Specifically the incredibility of the hoards from Durostorum are the wide range of coins — chronologically — within each hoard. For example, V. Laurent, in a discussion of Byzantine hoard finds described a hoard found near Durostorum as follows: " . . . 17 pieces de bronze se repartissant de Justin Ier a Alexis Ier. Ce Lot *exceptionnel* trop vite disperse."²⁷ Metcalf described a hoard found at the same local site as the one to be covered in this report. He wrote that, "The Kalipetrovo hoard from near Silistra discovered in 1928, consisted of 31 gold coins of which the latest was Alexis I. It was of a more extended age structure than the others that have been mentioned."²⁸ Buccur Mitrea described a similar coin hoard which consisted of

coins from the reign of Justinian I, 527-565 to John III, 1222-1254.²⁹ Of similar characteristics was another Silistra hoard found in 1928 which consisted of a time range of coins from the reign of Basil II, 976-1025, to Alexis I, 1081-1118. This hoard also included gold ornaments.³⁰

Other hoards of mixed time structure have been alluded to earlier. Yet such mixed hoards are the exception rather than the rule. Metcalf utilized information from the great multitude of orthodox hoards. These hoards of minimal time dispersion, the burial of which can usually be pinpointed to a specific year from the evidence within the hoard itself, present little difficulty for the numismatist to analyze. The only variance from studying these close-knit hoards Metcalf took is when he used the information from the huge archaeological site finds at Corinth and Athens. (At both sites large quantities of Byzantine coins were found). It is when using these site finds that Metcalf elaborated on not only the information offered by the coin minutiae in determining dates and mint issues, but he also described the overall monetary history of the area for longer periods of time.

Yet the relatively isolated hoard find which has a wide chronological factor is deemed incredible by most authorities, and ignored. Perhaps such reluctance to consider the historical usefulness of hoards of wide time range is justifiable. Perhaps more attention should be paid them. It is my intention now to list the contents of a hoard from Kalipetrovo and by so doing to discuss the hoard with an eye to the historical data it can supply on the Byzantine commercial impact in the Dobruja.

In 1929, in the city of Silistra, Rumania, a money changer, (the father of the owner of the hoard to be described) bought twenty-six Byzantine gold and electrum coins and an unknown quantity of gold jewelry and ornaments from a shepherd who had uncovered them in the hills near the village of Kalipetrovo.³¹ All of the gold coins were kept intact, but many of the gold ornaments were sold to a local dentist for gold dental inlays. In the same year of 1929, several different coin finds of Greek and Roman coins were made by farmers in the same area of Kalipetrovo. One of these hoards known to this writer consisted of a number of gold staters of Alexander the Great and Lysimachus from the fourth century B. C. All of the mint symbols of these staters were localized to the mint sites of northern Thrace and undoubtedly circulated in the Dobruja. Another hoard in the possession of the writer consists of a group of Roman Imperial denarii of the period of the Severi. Still another hoard, purchased by the writer from

the owner of the Byzantine gold hoard, consists of a small group of posthumous tetradrachms of Alexander the Great from the Odessus mint. Several of the coins from this Odessus group have die pairings. Thus the reliability of the origins of the Byzantine gold hoard now to be listed and illustrated seems to be much more acceptable than many of the hoards listed and described in the literature.

All of the coin pictures following have been enlarged two diameters. Brief condition descriptions of most of the coins follow the illustrations. The main reference book that was used was Warwick Wroth's *British Museum Catalogue*.³² His descriptions of the coin types have been paraphrased. The legends, where legible on the coins, have been included in the descriptions. Wroth's and occasionally Ratto's reference numbers follow each reverse inscription.³³ The weights of each coin are given in grams.³⁴

(to be continued)

¹ With the publication of D. M. Metcalf's study, *Coinage in the Balkans, 820-1355*, Thessaloniki, 1965, a really important step has taken in the utilization of coin hoards. Metcalf has synthesized the evidence intrinsically present in the numerous hoard finds of the Balkans in writing what amounts to a commercial history. Metcalf's techniques will be discussed later in this report.

² It is indeed important to classify coin hoards into die varieties, metrological differences, variety of types, and chronological sequences.

³ Many of the authors of standard numismatic works, for example J. Svoronos in his monumental work on Ptolemaic coins, *Ta Nomismata tou Kratous ton Ptolemaion*, Athens, 1904, studied the coins in known collections in the various museums and in private hands rather than elucidate on hoard finds pertinent to the Ptolemaic series. In standard reference works dealing with classical history the coins are mentioned primarily because of their art. Only rarely are coin hoards as such mentioned with a note on the light they may shed on the history itself.

⁴ American Numismatic Society, *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, Nos. 1-54, New York, 1920-1965.

⁵ See Elvira Clain-Stefanelli, *Select Numismatic Bibliography*, New York, 1965, pp. 7-23 for a thorough listing of important numismatic periodicals many of which contain articles on coin hoards.

⁶ Sydney P. Noe, "Coin Hoards," American Numismatic Society, *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, No. 1, New York, 1920, pp. 31-32.

⁷ Sydney P. Noe, "A Bibliography of Greek Coin Hoards," American Numismatic Society, *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, No. 25, New York, 1925. Noe later revised this work in his *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, No. 78, published in 1937.

⁸ Sawyer Mc A. Mosser, "A Bibliography of Byzantine Coin Hoards," American Numismatic Society, *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, No. 67, New York, 1935.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 112-114.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 37.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 44-45. This hoard, found in the same vicinity as the hoard to be discussed in this paper, consisted of thirty-one gold



CHARLES A. SAUNDERS

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- coins and gold ornaments, and represented coin issues from approximately 976-1118.
- ¹³ Noe, *Numismatic Notes and Monographs*, No. 25, p. 12. The famous Abukir, Egypt hoard which included over 600 Roman aurei, twenty gold medallions and eighteen gold bars, is one notable exception.
 - ¹⁴ Metcalf, p. 61.
 - ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 37.
 - ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 78.
 - ¹⁷ *Ibid.*
 - ¹⁸ *Ibid.*
 - ¹⁹ Vintula Mihailescu, "Considerations Geographiques," Academie Roumaine, *La Dobroudja*, Bucharest, 1938, pp. 7-32.
 - ²⁰ Radu Vulpe, "Histoire Ancienne de la Dobroudja," Academie Roumaine. *ibid.*, pp. 35-454. See the plates for illustrations of the ruins.
 - ²¹ Behrendt Pick, *Die Antiken Munzen Nord-Griechenlands, Dacien und Moesian*, Berlin, 1898-1910. See pp. 587-636 for Tomis.
 - ²² S. Dimitriu and O. Ilescu, "About the Issues of the Apollo-Amphipolis Type," *Dacia*, New Series, 1959, pp. 259-210.
 - ²³ R. W. Seton-Watson, *A History of the Roumanians*, Cambridge, 1934, p. 1.
 - ²⁴ Vulpe, *op. cit.*, plate XLVII. The importance placed on this region by the Romans is emphasized by some of the important architectural accomplishments they made in the area. Trajan's bridge and the various defensive fortifications of the Antonines are well known.
 - ²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 159.
 - ²⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 211-212.
 - ²⁷ V. Laurent, "Bulletin De Numismatique Byzantine, (1940-1949)," *Revue des Etudes Byzantines*, Paris, 1951, Vol. IX, pp. 192-251. This article includes a bibliography of all aspects of Byzantine numismatics written during the decade from 1940-1949. The italicized "exceptionnel" is mine.
 - ²⁸ Metcalf, p. 56. Silistra is the modern name of Durostorum. Kalipetrovo is a small farm community a few miles down river from Silistra. For further identification of the hoard to which Metcalf probably refers, see Mc A. Mosser, pp. 44-45.
 - ²⁹ Bucur Mitrea, "Monnaies Antiques et Byzantines Découvertes en Roumaine," *Dacia*, New Series, 1963. p. 599.
 - ³⁰ Mc A. Mosser, pp. 44-45. It is unclear from studying the reports of Laurent, Metcalf and Mc A. Mosser as to whether there were two or three finds in the Silistra area in 1928.
 - ³¹ The owner, who prefers to remain anonymous, acquired the coins and the remaining three gold ornaments from his father. The owner was present on the day his father bought the hoard and remembers the transaction. He took the hoard with him when he left Rumania several years ago.
 - ³² Warwick Wroth, *Catalogue of the Imperial Byzantine Coins* in the British Museum, London, 1908 2 vols. (Repr. 1966). Wroth starts his catalogue with the reign of Anastasius I and therefore this catalogue is not usable for the earlier coins in the hoard.
 - ³³ Rodolpho Ratto, *Monnaies Byzantines*, Lugano, 1930 (Repr. 1959). This is an extensive collection of Byzantine coins sold at auction by Ratto. His work is frequently used as a citing reference and the coins not covered by Wroth are given Ratto references in the present work.
 - ³⁴ All coins described are gold unless are specifically labeled electrum.

THE TURTLE SPEAKS TO ITS FRIENDS

Response has begun to come in to our suggestion of beginning a circulating library of numismatic books for ACCA members. We have already received lists of books available from several members, just a few of which are listed below.

The main concern seems to be the assurance of the safety and return of the books. It is known that no one deliberately keeps another's book, but it is amazing how often a book finds its way into one's own bookcase and remains there forever.

Therefore, the same suggestion has been submitted by several people, and believing it a good one, it is repeated here. Each person wishing to borrow books from another member will be asked to deposit a bond of \$10.00. This is to be sent to the librarian in charge and held in a special fund, just in case, and will be refundable on demand when a book is returned. If preferred this sum may remain on deposit for additional loans.

For the moment, until another librarian may be elected, Alyce Cresap (ACCA 711) has volunteered to handle the listing and records of the ACCA library. All requests for books and offers of books for loan should be sent to her at 33 East Bellevue Place, Chicago, Illinois 60611. If a book is available she will contact the owner and have it sent on, upon receipt of the \$10.00 deposit and 25c postage. (All persons offering books have requested that the postage be paid by the borrower).

Initially, here is a list of books available from ACCA members. The loan period will be two weeks unless other arrangements are specifically requested.

Hispanic Numismatic Series. *Coins of the Spanish Muluk al-Tawa'if*
Hispanic Numismatic Series. *Coinage of the Visigoths of Spain, Leovigild to Achilla II.*

Numismatic Notes and Monographs Nos. 81, 84, 85, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 139, 141, 143, 144.

Seaby, B.A., *Roman Silver*. Part I, 269-9 BC; Part II, 14-192 AD.

Benson, Frank Sherman, *Ancient Greek Coins*, Books I-XIV. 3 vols. Privately Printed 1903-4 (Coins of Magna Graecia, Syracuse and Sicily).

Hands, Rev. A. W., *Coins of Magna Graecia. The Coinage of the Greek Colonies of Southern Italy*. London 1909.

Griechische Munzen-Romische Munzen. Auction Catalogue, Bruder Egger, Vienna 1912. 2 vols., text and plates.

Please send in the titles, authors and dates of publication of books you are willing to loan so that this list can grow. When enough titles are available a listing of the library will be printed and sent to those requesting it. Most of the more common books are also available at this time; that is, those now in print.

(Miss Cresap will be away from September 9 until October 10 and will transfer the records to Argonaut Inc., Publishers during that period. Hans Moell (ACCA 900) will take care of matters in the interim. Please address him c/o Argonaut Inc., Publishers, 737 North Michigan, Chicago 60611.)

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BOOK REVIEWS

Schjoth, Frederick, CHINESE CURRENCY (CURRENCY OF THE FAR EAST) edited and reviewed by Virgil Hancock, Krause Publications, Iola, Wisconsin, 1965. 108 pp. + xviii + 146 plates. \$12.50

This book adds significantly to the all too few publications on ancient Eastern coins available in English.

The period covered is from the Chou dynasty (1122 BC-255 BC) in which the coinage of China originated through the Ching dynasty which was upset by the republic in 1911 AD. Cataloged are over 1600 "cash" coins in a collection which the author compiled and which now rests in the University of Oslo.

The descriptive material is limited, but is adequate and the illustrations, done in line drawings, are actually more useful than photographs. The use here of lines to show characters brings out minor differences that might be obscured in a photograph. It is also possible for Europeans and Americans to appreciate the nuances of Chinese script and many tables are included which will serve to introduce the beginner to the characters of Chinese coins.

The work is organized, opening with a section on coin terms and coining practices. Then follow text and charts which enable the reader to determine dates. The various dynasties are treated in some detail.

Four helpful chapters at the end of the book list the coins of Japan, Korea, and Annam and Chinese charms and amulets that are often mistaken for coins. These chapters and tables permit the reader to differentiate between these pieces and the Chinese coins.

Final charts in the book list coin weights, metals, titles used during each reign, emperors and usurpers who coined.

The value of this book may be summed up by noting that it expands the information found in Arthur B. Coole's book, COINS IN CHINA'S HISTORY, which lists types of coins only.

It has been brought to our attention more than once that the interaction between East and West went on throughout antiquity and modern numismatists can no longer ignore China's coins. This book assists in bridging that gap.

ARTHUR E. MCCracken

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor and reviser of this book, Virgil Hancock, is a member of the ACCA.

Gardner, Percy, THE COINS OF THE GREEK AND SCYTHIC KINGS OF BACTRIA AND INDIA, Argonaut Inc. Chicago, 1966. lxxvi + 193 pages + 32 plates. \$15.00.

Those productions of the British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals known somewhat familiarly to experienced coin collectors, numismatists and scholars as the *British Museum Catalogues* or simply as the "BMC" have long been out of print and available only to a select few who have had access to a major library.

While the British Museum itself has contemplated reprinting these works for many years it is only lately that, perhaps stung out of its indolence by the Italians and by Argonaut, has at last begun to get other volumes back in the hands of those who have been denied them so long.

The present volume is of vast and significant note to antiquarians and to the newer generation of historians who insist upon viewing the ancient world as an entity. Had it not been for the publisher's courage in reprinting the work at this time, it no doubt would have been years before it was again made available to the world. Argonaut

is to be applauded for taking this crucial step. The plates are remarkable for their clarity and fidelity.

It is easy for historians and numismatists alike to confine their thinking to the Mediterranean basin; they have centuries of precedent. As often has been warned in this very magazine, such provincialism distorts and restricts our vision of antiquity to our own detriment.

Alexander's conquests stretched to the Indus River, and if his empire was fragmented at his death, the wave of Greek culture that followed in his wake which has been named "Hellenism" did not. Thus was established in India a Greek speaking kingdom, one whose history has largely been reconstructed so far from the surviving inscriptions and coins and one which played an important role in the subsequent history of the world, both East and West.

If ever we are to appreciate fully and reconstruct the fabulous East-West trade that involved the Hellenistic Kingdoms of the Seleucids, the Ptolemies and the Antigonids, the Romans, the Parthians, the Chinese and the Indians we are going to have to devote much study to the Eastern coins. Nelson Debevoise, who has written the only authoritative book on Parthia to date, again and again emphasizes that further research into that area must come from numismatists devoted to the Bactrian and Indian coins.

Thus, at a time when historical attention is being turned into this lost area of the ancient world, the release to the world of the only significant corpus of Greco-Indian coins is a major event. JULIAN CARR

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CHAPTER NEWS

The response to local chapters over the past year has been excellent with units now formed in more cities than it is feasible to print in a single issue of the *Turtle*. This column will, however, be repeated periodically in these pages to inform new members of possible chapter activity in their areas and to keep isolated members who live away from chapter areas informed as to the progress of this vital part of the ACCA.

Calvin Woods, the Coordinator of ACCA Chapters now types and distributes to all chapter heads, a monthly newsletter wherein details of what other chapters are doing is given in detail.

People who feel they are in areas where a local chapter might or ought to exist are asked to write to:

Calvin C. Woods, Chapter Coordinator
449 Meadowlane North
Minneapolis, Minn. 55422

The Secretary Pro-tem of the Cincinnati Chapter asks specifically that we publish his next meeting as he feels there are a number of members not yet contacted.

KEN starts here

The Cincinnati Chapter will meet Sunday, September 18 at 1 PM at the home of Louis A. Platz, 3508 Cheviot Avenue, Cincinnati. Members and friends from the Louisville and Indianapolis areas are invited. More details are available from W. W. Lyon, 6908 Madisonville Road, Cincinnati, 45227.

A chapter has been organized in Saint Louis with a first meeting held August 3. Local secretary is Miss Delores M. Wolken, 30 Plaza Square, #605, St. Louis, Mo. 63103.

For the benefit of all members, three diverse chapters and their latest activities are here summarized.

Chicago reports that as a group they are preparing displays for exhibits at the Art Institute in Chicago and also the Public Library there. Many of the members are also working on individual research projects. This chapter meets at the offices of our publisher, Argonaut Inc. on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 P. M. except August 18.

Society Historia Numorum, our Massachusetts affiliate, advises that the founder, Phillip Ross Gaither has departed for a year of college in Maryland and his duties are being handled by B. A. Barstow. This chapter feels that it is a closely knit brotherhood of people whose interest is ancient coins. It is devoted very much to research and discussion.

In San Francisco the chapter has been organized in a more

formal way with club officers elected. The chapter secretary reported 25 members present at the last meeting.

Thus is being fulfilled across the country the plan of local groups, each following, not a set formula, but the needs and desires of its own members. These groups are coordinated only to the extent of having a central clearinghouse of information and a consciousness of being a part of the international group of ancient coin specialists who comprise the ACCA.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Charles Colbert, Chairman of the ACCA Research Committee is in need of an expert on Arabic coins. He requests that anyone familiar with this area and able to work with Arabic legends correspond with him and make his services available to the research committee. Contact Mr. Colbert at: Box 263, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.

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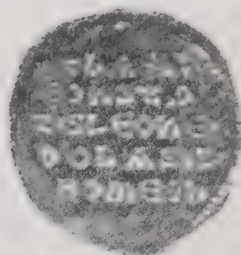
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COINS OF THE ROMAN REPUBLIC: A SURVEY, PART II

by H. MAITLAND

(Continued from July, 1966, pp. 207-210)

Pliny, Livy and other later writers are uniform in assigning the first silver coins of Rome to 269 BC. Those studies which have been made of early coins, tracing back from closely dated pieces, have tended to confirm a date of origin near this time. Hoard evidence indicates that it was this time that the bronze coins began also. Therefore it seems sufficiently conclusive that 269 BC is close enough to begin the coins of Rome.

(Before beginning this discussion, a note on weights is in order. Although it is more scientific to record weights in grams, the ratios of Roman coin weights are thereby obscured. Therefore all weights used here will be in Roman measure. For conversion purposes the scruple is 1.138 grams. The Roman pound was divided on a duodecimal system into 12 uncia (ounces) of 24 scripulae (scruples) each, or a total pound of 288 scruples. Bronze weights are always on a scripular basis. Precious metals are coined at so many to the pound, but invariably a duodecimal number.)

In bronze, at the beginning of coinage, we have the AS, followed by its sub-denominations, the SEMIS, the TRIENS, the QUADRANS, the SEXTANS and the UNCIA. The AS was libral, that is, it weighed or was intended to weigh a full libra or pound. Its semis or half was thus six ounces, and so on down to the uncia which weighed one ounce. Later, as the weight of the bronze coins fell off, the names remained including the uncia which as a coin no longer bore any relation to the uncia of weight but merely was the twelfth of an AS.

Triens, quadrans, and sextans were active names, in that they were dividers of twelve. Thus a triens would bear a . . . mark of value (12 divided by three equals four), the quadrans bore a . . . the sextans a . . . and the uncia upon occasion bore a single dot (.).

The first Roman bronze coins were cast in the larger denominations and struck in the smaller ones. Some of the earlier numismatic literature uses the term AES GRAVE to differentiate these cast or struck coins from the hypothesized earlier proto-coins. The term is now falling into disuse.

Other denominations in bronze are the fractions of the uncia; its half, the semuncia and its quarter, the quadruncia. As the weight of the whole system declines, these smaller coins tend to disappear. At the same time, larger denominations begin to appear as multiples of the AS such as the DU-

PONDIIUS (two asses) and the TRIPONDIIUS (three asses). There is even a coin, rather late in our period, of 10 asses — the DECUSSIS.

The weight of the bronze begins to fall immediately. By 169 BC after the Hannibalic wars we have definite evidence in the form of surviving “leges” that the AS was standardized at the weight of two ounces, the so-called sextantial AS. Later the AS is reduced to one ounce (the UNCIAL standard) and again to a half ounce (the SEMUNCIAL standard). It was at this time that bronze ceased. When it was restored by Augustus, the AS was one fourth of an ounce, the QUADRUNCIAL standard which was then maintained until late in the 3rd century AD.

The falling of the AS and its sub-denominations from a libral standard to the sextantial over a period of 100 years is something over which much controversy rages. Few of the earliest ASSES are of full weight leading some authors to deny that the AS was ever on a libral standard. Mattingly tends to argue, for example, for a standard of ten rather than twelve ounces for the first ASSES.

As the weight falls, some authors believe they identify various standards, such as the semi-libral, the triential and the quadrential. Other authors accept one standard but not others. In the absence of surviving currency laws to verify weight reductions, all that can be done is to hypothesize. Some historians argue that no planned reduction of weight took place, but rather that coin weights were permitted to fall off slowly as an inflationary and economy measure. Hoard evidence of surviving coins which have been weighed tend to point in the direction of this hypothesis.

During the period 269-169BC, the first two Punic wars occurred. Though the first was said to have functioned on credit, the “fides” of the state, the second exhausted both Rome and Italy. Surely these wars must have been reflected in the coins, but just how is now a matter of speculation. This again is an area of Roman numismatics which needs further study and interpretation.

This concludes a basic discussion of bronze except for the types. This discussion has been reserved for a later part of this article where types will be discussed as a single topic, an important one for the student of the Republic. Our next section will deal with the silver coins of Rome.

(to be continued)

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